

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-17 and 20-33 remain in the application. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, 15, 17, 20-33 have been amended.

The amendments to the claims do not raise issues of estoppel. Support for amended claims 1 and 31 may be found in the specification, for example, on page 7, line 31, through page 8, line 4, page 10, line 22 through page 11, line 10 and Figure 2. Support for amended claims 3 and 32 may be found in the specification, for example, on page 12, lines 13-18.

2. Claims 1-17 and 20-33 have been amended to overcome the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections. Applicant has amended the claims to positively recite structural limitations and eliminate narrative and indefiniteness.

3. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 5-19, 22-25 and 31-33 are not anticipated by Chang et al. (US 20030052074, "Chang") under 35 USC 102(e).

3.1 Chang fails to disclose or suggest a deposition device arranged to contact the flap to deposit liquid on the flap, as recited by claims 1 and 31.

Chang describes a closure 10 for a container 12 including a seal 16 with a displaceable bottom wall 36. As described in paragraph [0035] a sampling device 50 passes through the closure to obtain access to the contents of the container. A careful reading of all of Chang finds that the sampling device does not contact any part of the closure to deposit liquid on any part of the closure. Thus, there is nothing in Chang regarding a deposition device arranged to contact the flap to deposit liquid on the flap.

3.2 Chang also fails to disclose or suggest installing into a liquid channel a hinged septum having a flap inclined at an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the liquid channel, and using a deposition device to contact the flap and deposit a liquid on a

surface of the flap, as recited by claim 32. As argued above, Chang has nothing related to using a deposition device to contact and deposit a liquid on a surface of a flap of a hinged septum.

At least for these reasons, Applicants submit that Chang does not anticipate independent claims 1, 31, and 32 and dependent claims 2-17, 20-30 and 33.

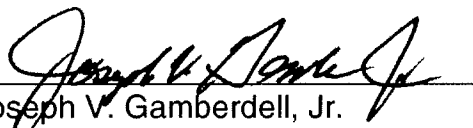
4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 20, and 21 are patentable over Chang under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 4, 20 and 21 depend from claim 1. As argued above, Chang fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1 and therefore claims 4, 20, and 21 are patentable at least because of their dependencies.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

4 October 2007
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Legal Department, DL429
Intellectual Property Administration
P. O. Box 7599
Loveland, Colorado 80537-0599

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 20030102-02

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically, on the date indicated below, addressed to the Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 10.4.2007

Signature:

Jessica Pace
Jessica Pace

Person Making Deposit